

**Please note, the following notes were typed up directly from the flip chart notes taken at the meeting.** City staff are currently working to identify consistent concerns and common themes, which will be posted separately.

**Table 1**

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Session 1                      9:30 – 10:30

**Question:** What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

- Diversity of shopping/food
- Safety is an issue. Need better lit pedestrian paths & police on sidewalk
- Wider variety of Retail (e.g. Trader Joes), similar to Fremont
- Balance of Commercial, uses
- Bring higher paying jobs
- Create 24-hour Neighborhood.
  - High-Tech business jobs (like Fremont Tech Businesses)
- Need a Youth Center for Neighborhood
- Need better access to Government Services Center, especially Social Security Office
- Opportunities for sharing “inter-cultural” experiences
- Need a community center that communicates/celebrates how different people live and dress, etc.
- Creating awareness of diverse cultures in community
- Improve awareness of churches in neighborhood
- People with needs (Blind. “hard to see” provide provisions to get them to station and throughout neighborhood safely
- Need traffic calming and bridging North Rainier
  - Wider, safer for bikes and pedestrians brings people/neighborhood together

**Question:** In what ways could the arrival of new neighbors improve your community?

- A Community Center that reflects different cultures in neighborhood; also connects “new cultures” to American culture.
- New development can bring new architectural styles and new people to neighborhood. (from other parts) or Puget Sound
- New development can bring new pocket parks; open spaces and safer/well-lit pedestrian routes to neighborhood
- The community needs a form of “Welcome wagon” for new people moving to neighborhood
- Concern about displacement of existing residents
- Concerned about affordable housing; will the new housing be affordable?
- Affordable housing desired close to retail services and potential jobs/employers

**Question:** How would you like to meet your daily and weekly needs for goods and services today (walk, bike, bus, car)? How could you have more choices? *Follow up:* What would need to change for you to be able to do this?

- Shuck's not best retail next to station. Need more diverse/community oriented retail in neighborhood or Trader Joes, competition for QFC
- Walking routes need to be safe at night in order for businesses to be successful. All the time 24/7
- More clothing stores in neighborhood
- Movie theater in neighborhood
- Having lots of people around makes it safer; a sign that it is safer
- Eliminate Graffiti
- Wider sidewalk, really wide like Market in Ballard. Cafes/tables on sidewalks
- Police Station in neighborhood

**Question:** What services are important to you as your neighborhood grows? *Follow up:* What opportunity does this growth provide?

- Copy /Center, Fed-ex/Kinkos
- Specialty Garden Center (like City People's)
- Vocational & Post High-school education centers. Training
- UW Extension. Facility, rather than UW Laundry
- Green Building technology/vocational /training center
- Bike-Works type business in North Rainier Ave (Near trail system) place to buy things

**Question:** What will make you stay?

- Reduced crime, more police
- Good access to city/region through transit/car
- Continue affordability
- More amenities in neighborhood so people visit this neighborhood – Mix of uses – Make it a destination
- Support for my "cultural community" so people come to my neighborhood to visit me, etc.
- Retain a density of individual cultures ethnic groups
- Better infrastructure for both walking and driving
- What can we do/add to make people stay the whole day especially if/when there are events happening
  - Talked about Danskin Days, Triathlon and Seafair days
- Get people to spend money in our neighborhood
- Need to have viable businesses to support the community

Table 1, Session 2      10:30 – 11:30

**Question:** What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit-Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Wonderful single family neighborhoods surround this station area/urban core area
- Ring of Parks, wonderful open space system that runs through and surrounds our parks (could be accented as a defining characteristic)
- Lacks connectivity for both cars and pedestrians between different parts (especially across Rainier/MLK) of the valley and surrounding neighborhoods
- Create a place that's identifiable as a town center.
- The bus layover. Pollution from cars, some relationships between cars/pedestrians not desirable
- How do you create a great pedestrian neighborhood at the intersection of two large arterials?
- Many ideas and models have been out there in parts of the community, we need to spread these ideas to a wider audience.
- Commuters using transit
  - Concerns:
    - Will this impact business parking?
    - Will the existing small businesses/ethnic businesses be part of the community in the future?
- Add parallel parking on Rainier/MLK to provide buffer/safety to pedestrians on sidewalks
- Elevated station creates opportunity for greater density. Need more upzoning in L4 zone
  - Which leads to better pedestrian realm, more retail, better sidewalks, on-street parking
- For small business need more parking. More businesses will attract more people which will lead to more growth

**Question:** In what ways could the arrival of new neighbors improve your community?

- Need more lighting in neighborhood
- Worried about safety of train crossings. Ensure safety at train stations closing gates at train crossing would be safer, like in Portland
- Denser/active areas promote/create safer community/safer public realm
- Better pedestrian connections
  - East to West
  - Between College St and McClellan
  - Need wider sidewalks
  - Ways to get from Mt Baker Hill to Valley Floor

**Question:** How would you like to meet your daily and weekly needs for goods and services today (walk, bike, bus, car)? How could you have more choices? *Follow up:* What would need to change for you to be able to do this?

- Many daily needs are not currently being met
  - Bookstore, copy shop, news-stand
- Concerned about displacing small businesses as area redevelops. How can we provide opportunities for small businesses to remain in future?
- New development is expensive, maximize re-use of existing buildings to retain affordable places for small business to remain

Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit-Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Make the town center a destination, creating a business climate where people stay here when they visit, more people walking on sidewalks all the time.
- More pedestrians would benefit existing small businesses (as long as they (businesses) can stick around)
- Can you create a small business incubator in new development; is this possible?
- What is the spectrum of businesses that we need. How do we attract them (what are our regulatory/incentive tools) without increasing car traffic, emphasizing pedestrian traffic?
- Retail study is underway – doing target retail and employer/business recruitment
- Concerned about “strip” zoning along Rainier
- Concentrate extra housing/retail at station core
- Create a concentrated node. through how we do zoning
- Look at legal/regulatory/policy frameworks that allow us to reduce car/truck traffic on Rainier.
- Ensure Safety at crossing, especially at S Alaska & S Graham Streets
- Get Sound Transit and similar agencies to employ people from neighborhood
- Look at moving truck route to MLK to move it around Town Center

Table 1, Session 3      11:30 – 12:30

**Question:** What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

- Pedestrian connections/routes in town center are dangerous
- Crossing Rainier Ave and MLK is very dangerous
- Waiting for bus on Rainier is scary/dangerous/polluted/noisy
  - Need buffer between pedestrian/sidewalk and road
- I was drawn to neighborhood through proximity to Lake Washington/Parks system.
  - Easy commute; car and bike to Factoria
  - But not enough diversity of retail. Also not safe for biking along Rainier
- Insufficient sidewalks
- Need more multi-cultural shopping close or within neighborhood
- Need for diverse foods to match diverse population
- There's no Center to the Valley; No Town Center
- European Market examples
  - Grand central Market, Los Angeles
  - Chelsea Pier, New York City
  - Ferry Terminal, San Francisco
  - Barcelona Ramblas
- Move heavy traffic off Rainer and onto MLK from intersection with MLK to the north side of the Lowes site
- Concern about small businesses getting pushed out/displaced with new development

**Question:** In what ways could the arrival of new neighbors improve your community?

### Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit-Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Need a financial assistance program for establishing/expanding ethnic/small businesses in Rainier Valley
  - Example: East African 90% of current customers are East African. Want to maintain this and expand to other groups drawing a wider range of customers
- Opportunities for different cultures to get to know each other. "Regular" affordable stores for people of different cultures.
- Need Accessible/Central locations for communication/kiosks/wider communication strategy – communicating to each other in all of our languages.
- Use international symbols throughout neighborhood
- Make sure Parks programs are actively communicated and encourages in all of the languages of the valley
- Cultural/Community Center to share our arts, languages, and cultural traditions (need this facility)
  - Example: Youngstown Community Center, West Seattle
- Language is the key for understanding and connecting with neighbors and larger community.
  - Example: school currently don't teach African languages
  - Culturally and linguistically appropriate

Table 1 Quick Summary from three sessions

- Diversity of culture, social-economic and age
- Great location proximity to downtown, Lake east side and park system
- Single family housing stock around valley is great-desirable
- Still some affordable housing left
- Pedestrian routes are dangerous no good walking routes to or within neighborhood center
  - Lighting
- More People arriving equals more customers as long as businesses are not displaced
- More people equals more people on the street, better public safety
- Need links:
  - Between retail (kinkos, places that distribute news)
  - Between cultures
  - Between bus district and surrounding residential
- Need to create a Cohesive tight Town Center. Not continue to strip development
- Safer environment for pedestrians
  - Public safety and policy

Table 2

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Session 1      9:30 – 10:30

**Question:** What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

- Connectivity of Green space
- Walkability - attracted by Light Rail

Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit-Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Not able to identify Town Center
- Appreciate diversity & Variety
- Low- height / low density
- Challenges: lack of focus – light rail- DPD needs to identify town center
- A unique town center is made of different sized pieces, a different geographic layout is an opportunity to create and define a Town Center
- Leverage the Sound Transit investment - increase the number of houses around light rail- explore a neighborhood shuttle
- Intersection of Rainier/Mc Clellan/ MLK is the physical center –connection to surrounding communities
- Need better connectivity between up & down the hill
- No diversity of stores now – an opportunity to provide more stores/goods
- There are no school zone signs around Franklin – a safety hazard
- Key elements are here, but need more safety & walkability – better East/West connections
- Attracted by nearby amenities – Columbia City, Seward Park, and Down Town.
- Cultural diversity
- No center for many ethnic communities – we have to drive to other areas like the Central District
- Many Ethiopians living in area →no community center (goal)
- Hoping to get a community center → important element in town center
- Want own community center & swimming pool
- Place/ programming for kids/youth

**Question:** What characteristics do you not want to lose in your neighborhood?

- Diversity
- Wants zoning: commercial that runs East/West
- Multiple ways to get around promoting greater East/West Connectivity & services

**Question:** How well does the neighborhood serve residents?

- Isn't a service node here →no specific agency
- Family service building coming
- Treehouse is here
- We are so spread out (single family homes) how to you mix w/commercial?
- We have all of the pieces, but because we are so spread out, services are hard to access
- Unity
- include someone from Seattle School District at May meeting

**Question:** How would you like to meet your daily and weekly needs for goods and services today (walk, bike, bus, car)? How could you have more choices? *Follow up:* What would need to change for you to be able to do this?

- Need a way to get around locally
- Community focused transit system

Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit-Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Metro is changing service system
- Metro E/W
- Increase access to more retail services
- Increase access to LR stations
- Area is car aggressive
- like to see less focus on cars, more on other modes
- Latino Community: tutoring & ESL classes are important, increase access to technology (important to program community centers)
- Connectivity to Sound Transit Phase 2 I-go stop
- Aesthetic / safety issue w/Rainier corridor
- No way to walk/bike down/up Rainier Corridor
- Improve safety – make Rainier corridor more attractive to travel on (WSDOT)
- Extend Chief Sealth Trail →no good way to bike
- Improve for biking & walking-if not possible create an parallel bike lane
- Goal of non-motorized
- Rethink NP vision Statement – add non-motorized priorities
- Flatness of Rainier makes it appealing to bike on
- No bus service from the Valley to the East side.
- Transit modes inform each other

**Question:** What services are important to you as your neighborhood grows? *Follow up:* What opportunity does this growth provide?

- Childcare centers and ESL classes
- Transit
- Type of retail – provide opportunity/incentive to get businesses into vacant spaces & parking lots
- Incentive to give up parking lots (ie: Lowes)
- Opportunities for smaller scale businesses
- Access to food - people have to make a lot of different trips→bring food stores together
- Develop an international food center /plaza
- →surround QFC/Safeway by ethnic stores (ie: Wall in Kent)
- Boy's and Girl's Club (or something like that)

Table 2, Session 2      10:30 – 11:30

**Question:** What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

- Opportunity for a neighborhood center (but doesn't feel like the neighborhood has one now)→The physical pieces are now in place
- Consider different centers, not just one
- Center – a place where people can congregate –
  1. A gathering place –not here- MISSING NOW

2. Recreate, get services, shop - all within commercial space
- Want an active hub for extended hours – (apply cultural overlay district)
- Important element of town center is arts/culture→ this area is diverse
- Physical place (s) need to be flexible – don't have to serve just one need
- Access to places are important – mixed income housing could be important
- Town center element – variety of services to meet needs
- Are there vacant buildings like schools that could be used on an interim basis for community uses?
- ACRS– MLK & Charleston –create more around here

**Question:** What services are important to you as your neighborhood grows? *Follow up:* What opportunity does this growth provide? What do you not want to lose?

- Locally owned business
- Reflect diversity of neighborhood
- Type of food stores – meet different needs – need to make sure all of those places are here.
- \*\*\*\*Use spaces to serve diverse needs (culture, age, income)
- Take back Rainier from the cars
- Preserve cultural & economic diversity
- Emphasis on natural environment
  - Chesty needs better lighting/safety
  - Promoting local agriculture thru community gardens → make more accessible→ broader throughout neighborhood →close to residential
  - P-Patches - that can be used by a variety of people
  - Put P-patches in greenbelt – engage people to be in greenbelt / better safety with more people around
  - different types of gathering space → informal & formal
  - Single family homes on sides of Urban Village are served by urban village
  - Linear development is a positive – promotes safety for pedestrian crossing

**Question:** How would you like to meet your daily and weekly needs for goods and services today (walk, bike, bus, car)? How could you have more choices? *Follow up:* What would need to change for you to be able to do this?

- Buy everything we need here (self – contained community) →clothing, groceries
- Walkability into commercial
- Diversity of community→ accessible
- Concentrating business (Rainier is a mess)
- String Rainier together
- Spreading out commercial helps safety – upkeep of different pockets is easier than whole stretch
- Crossing MLK has to be easy
- Accessibility between commercial & service areas
- Idea of commercial center not focused on one strip



Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit-Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Similar uses make sense to be adjacent to each other
- More ways to move people up & down corridor / E & W connections

**Question:** In what ways could the arrival of new neighbors improve your community?

Risk exists w/the train → crime increases with train usage

- Eyes on the street (density) improve public safety
- Those who move in have opportunities for employment
- Good/family wage jobs, living wage job opp.
- New development → puts pressure on infrastructure capacity
- → Need lighted sidewalks
- Accessibility for all, including those with disabilities
- We should ensure new developments are "green"
- Parking? (with the arrival of rail) – huge problem
- Opportunities → push City to make this SE the "green Zone" (bring green to make it greener)
- Norfork Business Park – keep industrial – underutilization on park → green jobs/industries
- Maintain and expand community events (bicycle Sundays, farmers market-) build networks in community to create opportunities to connect - block parties, farmers market
- More outdoor / indoor pleasant place to be

Table 2, Session 3      11:30 – 12:30

**Question:** What unique characteristics contribute to the identity of your neighborhood center? As the community grows, what opportunities are there to build on that? *Follow up:* What things could change that would make it a better community for you?

- Geographic center- easily accessible
- MLK/Rainier, connections to Columbia City, Park ( more accessible but does not need to be in one place)
- Provides different services & businesses close to each other
- Really close to everything (downtown, Bellevue)
- Multicultural – doesn't seem like other cities
- Diverse (culturally) – diversity makes me feel safer
- Going to the center is a necessity – not a magnet
- Schools, churches, shopping centers are accessible
- Age of homes/historical significance of community, desire to preserve.

**Question:** In what ways could the arrival of new neighbors improve your community?

- New energy is a plus, concern is losing diversity
- Keep affordable housing and rents for businesses
- Nice to ensure economic & cultural & age diversity} maintain!
- Make it possible for families to stay & feel welcomed
- More people coming is a positive, but concerned about safety near homes & shopping
- Not safe at night for pedestrians
- Need more police, lower, people-scaled pedestrian lighting

Notes from Group 2, Shaping a Transit-Friendly Community for the Neighborhood

- Want specific walking space and lighting
- Buildings that put people and eyes on the streets
- Partner services (i.e. soup kitchens) with new development
- When planning new development –include flexible space community space

**Question:** What services are important to you as your neighborhood grows? *Follow up:* What opportunity does this growth provide?

- Community center, pools, families, youth and seniors services →we now always have to go somewhere else
- Be able to walk more
- Police sub-stations – “store front deputy” – circulating patrol cars
- More locally – owned, organic
- ESL classes
- Gym for youth
- Center that is available for ALL
- Flexible gathering space - that works for all

Essentials:

- Good School system → keep families here
- School Closures are a big concern
- College branch (ESL , gym)
- Services for the homeless
- Drug & addiction services → problem increases with population increases
  - → be realistic about what’s going on
  - → address prevention
- →How can the open space be used productively?
- →Open space for community needs?

**Question:** How would you like to meet your daily and weekly needs for goods and services today (walk, bike, bus, car)? How could you have more choices? *Follow up:* What would need to change for you to be able to do this?

- Doing good w/groceries, – but maybe some clothing stores
- Affordable new and second-hand stores – bring up local economy
- Toy store
- Medical clinic?
- Not safe place for disabled – need services for this population
- Community – based development agreements
- New development with meaningful and acted upon community input
- Scale new development to humans & streets
- New development should give back some open space
- New development should fit character and flow of current scale or context/ setting